

issued to participating States to involve farmers at minor (canal) level through formation of Water Users' Associations. Management subsidy is provided to these Associations under the Programme. A series of Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers. Training courses on participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers. States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines on participatory irrigation management. Action has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare manuals in four regional languages. Work of preparing drafts of model amendments to irrigation acts in order to give legal status to farmers organisations is in progress. The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Problems in Education

1483. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received a memorandum dated July 12, 1996 from the All India Primary Teachers Federation regarding the problems of education in general and at primary level in particular; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the suggestions given by the All India Primary Teachers Federation on various matters contained in their memorandum dated July 12, 1996 have been kept in view by the Working Groups constituted by the Planning Commission while formulating proposals for the IX Five Year Plan. A number of suggestions are within the purview of State Governments.

Research on Taxol

1484. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the taxol as an anti-cancer drug; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) No specific research has been conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research on Taxol an anti-cancer drug derived from the Himalayan yew *Taxus baccata* and *T. Walligiana*.

Increase in Population

1485. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of increase in population in the country has been on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to frame any law for controlling the population;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated increase of population in urban and rural areas respectively; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir. The annual exponential growth rate of population was 2.14% during 1981-91 as against 2.22% during 1971-81. According to the Sample Registration System figures of 1995 the natural increase of population is 1.93%.

(b) to (d) The National Family Welfare Programme is voluntary and the focus is on improvement in the quality of services so as to increase acceptance levels.

The actual and estimated increase of population for urban and rural are given as below :

	Population in Millions		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1981 (Census)	683.3	523.8	159.5
1991 (Census)	846.3	628.7	217.6
2001 (Projected)	1012.4	721.2	291.2

Availability of Ambulances

1486. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vehicles carrying patients to death" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) total number of ambulances held by the Government hospitals in Delhi, hospital-wise and the number out of them in an obvious state of disrepair;

(d) whether in the event of CT scanner being out of order, the hospitals find it difficult to refer the patients particularly head injury cases to other hospitals; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take to improve the availability of ambulances in the hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news-item, shortage of ambulances in the Government Hospitals of Delhi and their poor condition has been alleged.

(c) The position in respect of Central Govt. hospitals is contained in a Statement at Annexure. The information in respect of hospitals under the control of Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Such patients are referred to other Government hospitals. Action is, however, taken immediately to get the defective machines repaired. The matter is reviewed as per instructions of the Govt. and old vehicles declared condemned and replaced by new vehicles.

Statement

Name of Hospital	Total No. of Ambulances	Ambulances out of order
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	7 (including one hearse van)	2
Safdarjung Hospital	14	—
All India Institute of Medical Sciences	9	—
Smt. S.K. Hospital	2	—
Hospitals under Municipal Corporation of Delhi.	15	2

Indo-UK Collaboration

1487. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to establish joint collaboration and cooperation with United Kingdom;

(b) the areas in which Indo-UK cooperation has been established;

(c) whether any pact has been signed for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have actively supported, together with the Government of the United Kingdom, the steps taken by trade and industry in both countries to deepen their interaction in all areas of mutual interest. The Indo-British Partnership Initiative, launched in 1993 by the two Prime Ministers, was designed to do this, and has been successful in leading to a steady increase of bilateral trade, and of investment from the United Kingdom.

(c) In recent months, the only inter-governmental agreement signed with the United Kingdom has been an MOU on "cooperation in coal-related industries."

(d) The MOU establishes an Indo-British Coal Forum, which would be a partnership between the coal-related industries of the United Kingdom and India; it would be supported by the Governments and provide a link between them and industry. Several cooperative activities have been identified under the MOU.

Schemes of Kerala under AIBP

1488. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted any schemes for inclusion in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(b) if so, the names of such schemes;

(c) whether the Union Government have accorded sanction to the above schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the same are likely to be sanctioned for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) The Government of Kerala had proposed inclusion of Kallada, Pamba, Muvattupuzha and Periyar Valley Projects for inclusion under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. All these projects individually cost less than 1000 crores. Out of these, Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 5 crores has been approved for Kallada Project. While Pamba and Periyar Valley Projects are reported to have been completed, the expenditure incurred on Muvattupuzha is not substantial and therefore these could not be included under the programme.

World Bank Assistance

1489. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects funded by World Bank and other international financial institutions during the last three years and funds sanctioned and actually utilised project-wise and result thereof;

(b) the details of progress made by standard norms on the ongoing projects, project-wise;

(c) the details of the new projects proposed for financial support of the World Bank/other international agencies, project-wise; and

(d) the present status of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.